



MEMO

TO: Charles J. Cook

DATE: 11 November 1977

FROM: Ray L. Leadabrand

SUBJECT: Policy for ESP Research at SRI

LOCATION:

CC:

I have reviewed the two possible draft policies you have given me with considerable dismay.

The first one, prepared by Ernie Moore (dated 10/12/77), sets up a policing force to control the research activity. It also completely short circuits all normal research management functions by its take over of these functions by the committee. I cannot see that this approach has much to offer either the researchers, their research managers, or SRI,

In the one you mailed me on your trip (dated 10/31/77), I felt you got bogged down in trying to define what kind of ESP research we should undertake. I really don't disagree with your opinions but I feel that to put such detailed restriction in a "policy" is undesirable.

As a result of these shortcomings, I've tried to put down what I feel I need (and the ESP research staff needs) as a policy and as protection from overcontrol of the research. The attached two pages list the policy's objectives as I see them. Using this as a basis and framework I have attempted to write a broadly based policy which allows all the major and important aspects to be covered, but without the needless detail. I hope you agree.

I feel that the oversight review committee should consist of SRI staff and outsiders and must report at the highest level of the organization as the committee's concerns, or lack of concerns about this controversial research area must be intimately understood at that level. The draft policy doesn't state it but the committee must be cleared at the SI SA0 code word level. I have suggested some possible SRI staff member names for the committee, but these are only suggestions. Specific suggestions for the SRI members are:

Dave Elliott
Don Scheuch
O. G. Villard, Jr.
Allen Peterson

A professional magician and a very high level physicist will be brought in from outside SRI to complete the committee roster. I do believe it is terribly important that the committee be peopled by senior staff that are agnostic toward ESP and not as "believers" or as hard atheists.

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The mechanics I suggest is to have Charlie Anderson issue this policy to the management council, thus implementing it for the house. I've even written what I think he should say in the covering memo when he distributes the policy.

I look forward to discussing this with you.

RLL:fs

Enclosures: Objectives of the Policy
Draft memo from C. A. Anderson
Draft Policy

cc: D. Johnson
H. Puthoff ✓
R. Targ